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REPORT

TOPIC Brandis Airfield

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 26 July 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Light single-seater jet fighters were seen taking off and landing at Brandis (N 52/E 31) airfield during a two-hour period of observation on 15 May 1950. After each landing the pilots were changed. The planes were not painted. A gun with a maximum caliber of 15 mm was on both sides of the nose wheel bay. The speed of the craft at level flight was roughly estimated at 300 km/h. The ground run when landing was less than 1,000 meters with brakes applied. The thrust performance was estimated at at least 1,000 kg.
2. An airfield worker said that the unit stationed in Brandis was equipped with 42 jet fighters and had come from Schweidnitz (P 51/H 18). (1) He also said that the pilots were 20 to 22 years old and that underground fuel tank installations with a capacity of about 40,000 liters had been completed at the field. (2) However, these installations are apparently not to be used since the aviation gasoline required is being supplied by two tank trucks coming from outside the field.
3. About 30 jet fighters, in addition to 20 single and twin-engine planes were seen at Brandis airfield on 15 May 1950. There was student flying. According to German airfield workers the strength of the airfield personnel was 500. 50X1-HUM
4. Truck [] was on a shuttle-run between the field and the town. Airfield workers said that the EM were restricted and were only allowed to enter the town when on duty. All the German innkeepers of the vicinity were directed not to serve alcoholic beverages to Soviet soldiers. Several Soviet families had recently been sent back to the U.S.S.R. and numerous houses in Brandis were returned to their German

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owners.

5. [redacted] the unit in Brandis had come from Lieg- 50X1-HUM
nitz (O 52/B 82). (1)
6. The runway was lengthened by about 400 meters to the east,
as far as the edge of the woods, and by about 100 meters
toward the west. [redacted] it was 50X1-HUM
planned to lay a water main around the field to facilitate
sprinkling the landing field. This was necessary because the
jet fighters damaged the field when taking off and landing. 50X1-HUM
7. There was heavy flying at Brandis airfield with few clouds
and good visibility on 18 May 1950. Two small and twelve
large jet planes, two twin-engine planes, and one biplane
were counted. Characteristics of the aircraft :
a. Small jet planes : wings with dihedral, steep rudder
assembly, nose wheel, two-place cockpit between leading
and trailing edges of wings, antenna rod at rear of cock-
pit with antenna to the rudder assembly, painted olive-
drab with a white-bordered diagonal stripe on rudder
assembly, yellow [redacted] at nose. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
b. Large jet planes : Red-bordered air intake, wings and
elevator assembly with a pronounced swept-back appear-
ance, nose wheel, painted silver-gray, Soviet star on
rudder assembly and fuselage, but not on underside of
wings. Upper edge of rudder assembly painted blue [redacted] 50X1-HUM
c. Twin-engine planes : radial engines in wings, pilot
seat a short distance behind the nose, single rudder
assembly, retractable landing gear, tail wheel visible
when in flight, dark paint, yellow [redacted] at 50X1-HUM
rear of fuselage [redacted]
[redacted] (3)
8. To the east the runway continued in a sand strip, which was
sometimes used by taxiing planes. The trails of the landing
gear of a large jet plane on this strip showed that this type
aircraft had a wheel base of 3 meters. The large jet planes
took off individually but assembled in groups of four. The
small jet planes made only local flights and had a long ground
take-off run. The planes landing came down very steeply. Upon
the firing of a red signal flare, the planes which were
landing would not land, but climb. Green and yellow signal
flares were fired toward planes landing without visible
effects.
9. A radio truck with a braced antenna about 10 meters high
stood at the western edge of the field. Another radio truck
was seen at the southern edge of the field. (4) Cables led
from the top of the antenna to the interior of this truck.

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10. A total of 13 jet fighters, 4 single-engine fighters, 5 large twin-engine transports, and a biplane were seen in front of the hangars at the northern edge and on the runway of Brandis airfield. There was intensive flying with the single-engine and jet fighters from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in clear weather. The jet fighters flew in groups of two. (5)

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Comments.

- (1) The statement that the regiment was previously stationed in Schweidnitz is confirmed. The unit may have come from Poland.
- (2) The first report of the storage capacity of the fuel tank installations.
- (3) The aircraft descriptions agree with previous observations. They were type 16 jet planes, type 14 jet planes and Li-2s, respectively.
- (4)
- (5) Brandis airfield was occupied by jet planes of types 14 and 16, conventional fighters, LA-9s according to former reports, and Li-2 type transports. From the number of aircraft reported and previous information, it is believed that a fighter regiment is stationed at the field. The regiment is assigned to the division whose two other regiments are in Grossenhain. The number of jet planes stationed in Brandis is firm. To date, a maximum of 10 type 14 jet planes had been counted.

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